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December 2019

Contribution Hours: 128

Events, Meetings, and Conferences Attended:

- *Strategic Planning Committee Meeting*
- *GFC Executive*
- *Meeting with Susan Powers of TAO*
- *KPMG Audit Meeting*
- *CAUS Teleconferences (3)*
- *LPIRG Board Meeting*
- *Business Liason Committee*
- *General Assembly Meeting*
- *Senate Meeting*
- *CAUS Presidents' Call*
- *John Gill/ Bill and Elsa Cade Award Meeting*
- *General Faculties Council*
- *GFC Nominations Committee*
- *GFC Convocation Committee*
- *ULAA Christmas Party*
- *Meeting with UofL Board Chair*
- *Reviewer Lunch for Student Affairs*
- *Board of Governors Meeting*
- *Board of Governors Dinner*
- *Executive Council Transition Meeting*
- *Meeting with Terry Whitehead*
- *Partnership Announcement*
- *Holiday Break*

Descriptions of Notable Meetings/Events:

*Strategic Planning Committee*

Our December meeting was quite possibly the most productive meeting we have had with the committee yet. We restructured the meeting time so everyone could commit to two hours – which allowed for a much more fulsome discussion. We worked to refine our priorities, so that our objectives fit more in line with our capacities as an organization. I also began work on a document for the committee which covers the two/three strategic directions with write-ups under each. This document will be refined/edited heavily throughout this month and (hopefully) finalized sometime in January.

*Meeting with Susan Powers of TAO*

After the TAO media release I participated in in November, I wanted to reach out to TAO home office to see how we could better adapt the service offerings to our campus. Susan was extremely helpful and even gave me a bunch of tips to better help the unique nature of our campus. I plan on pursuing some of these implementation recommendations a little more directly in January.

#### *KPMG Audit Meeting*

As per the mandate of the PSLA, we had to approve our annual third-party audit of our organization. There were no unknown issues presented by the audit, and overall our organization is healthy. We do not post the audit publicly as there is a lot of information, however anyone can request to view the documentation. This document was the officially approved by the Executive Council as well as the General Assembly.

#### *LPIRG Board Meeting*

Early in the month, Cheri, Kate, Bailey, and I met with Jennifer and another board member from LPIRG (I apologize – I do not remember their name). This was a very productive conversation covering potential partnerships to respond to the provincial/institutional budget. I look forward to working openly with the organization to help students understand the impacts of this budget and offer outlets for government and the institution to hear the voices of students.

#### *General Assembly Meeting*

This month's GA meeting was a long one. We approved the annual audit from KPMG, approved (with much discussion) the budget for LCB, and much much more. The minutes should be available on our website ([ulsu.ca](http://ulsu.ca)) although overall, I will say I was impressed and thankful for the conversation facilitated by the GA.

#### *Senate Meeting*

This month's Senate meeting was an eventful one. I presented with Erin Phillips about the Food Bank and Nourish Program and I am so honored and thankful to say that we raised a total of \$1701.25 for both programs. A HUGE thank you to Senate and to everyone that donated. The Holidays see such a large uptake in the Food Bank, it is so heartwarming to see participation from the community. We also discussed Honorary Degree applications and went over a quick budget update for 2019/20.

#### *General Faculties Council*

In December's GFC meeting, I once again presented alongside Erin Phillips about the Food Bank and the Nourish program. It was so great to see support from members of the internal campus community – a sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated. We raised \$681 for both the Nourish program and the Food Bank: money I know will go directly to help the front line of students in need.

#### *ULAA Christmas Party*

December was an unofficial meeting of multiple ULAA members for food and conversation. Nick Gabbin of the ULAA was gracious enough to let everyone use his house for the event. I really appreciated the opportunity to unwind a little and have great conversations with members in a more informal setting. The food was great, the conversation was better, and overall, I was really happy with how everything worked out. A big thank you to Nick for hosting and for the ULAA for the invite.

#### *Meeting with the University of Lethbridge Board Chair*

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December I met with Kurt Schlachter to discuss the board and my role as a member. It was an extremely positive conversation and one that I was very thankful to be a part of. I appreciate the effort on Kurt's part to connect individually with board members. I look forward to further work with the Board for the remaining duration of my term.

#### *Reviewer Lunch for Student Affairs*

Kathleen Massey contacted several members from the ULSU to request feedback for Student Affairs. We sat down with the GSA and two external reviewers (one from the University of Regina and the other from the University of Victoria) to discuss the services on campus and any areas for improvement that we see. It was a rather productive conversation and shed a lot of light on where Student Affairs holds potential to grow. I appreciate the attention to detail and willingness for critical feedback from the Student Affairs team. I hope our participation was beneficial.

#### *Board of Governors Meeting*

The December board meeting was quite an important one. It began with our final Pass the Hat presentation, where we raised \$1175 (which means the Senate won this year!). Board members were quite responsive to the issue of food insecurity on campus and, alongside Erin Phillips, I was quite happy with how the presentation went. We then went on to approve the updated 2019/20 university budget. This was obviously quite challenging as we saw a \$3.4 million dollar decrease in the Campus Alberta Grant as well as an elimination of the current year Infrastructure Maintenance Program, which totaled somewhere in the area of \$4.2 million dollars. I am thankful for Nancy Walker, Carrie Takeyasu, and all members of the Budget Advisory Committee who helped develop such a difficult budget without sacrificing any student services. We also finally approved the University of Lethbridge Statement on Free Expression. As was the mandate of the provincial government, we now have a statement outlining this affects our campus.

#### *Executive Council Transition Meeting*

Myself alongside the other four Vice-Presidents sat down on a Friday to discuss transitioning the next team of executives. Obviously, it is still relatively early, however this session helped to outline just how much work stands to be done in this regard. I am very happy with how this preliminary meeting went; I believe we all have a better understanding of how to approach this topic moving forward. Huge thank you to Kate Potts for doing much of the groundwork with this initiative, as well as a genuine thank you to the other executives for their time and effort. I am looking forward to implementing much of what we discussed over the coming months.

#### *Meeting with Terry Whitehead*

After our transition planning meeting, Terry Whitehead from the Board of Governors requested to meet with Lauren Zink and I at the Zoo. It was quite a pleasure talking with Terry, he was the ULSU President back in '93, and hearing about the history of the organization. It really put a lot of things into perspective. Terry also committed to donating \$100/month indefinitely towards the food bank. I cannot thank Terry enough for this, this will have a substantial positive impact on students in need. I really appreciated the time that Terry took to meet with Lauren and myself.

#### *Partnership Announcement*

On Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup>, I drove out to Brockett Alberta to witness a historic announcement by the university, the Blackfoot Nation, and the MasterCard Foundation. This event commemorates the official start of the partnership which is multifaceted in terms of financial provisions and means of accessibility.



*Final Thoughts*

And just like that, its December. I am really looking forward to the relaxation provided by the Holiday break, I eagerly look forward to spending time with my family, seeing my dog again, and sharing food and memories with those closest to me. I hope this time provides something similar to those of you who celebrate this time of year. Happy holidays!

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding my report.

Wishing you warmth this December,

Andrew Gammack  
President